

design and finish of execution. These artistic inspirations were subsequently overlaid by influences from the Mediterranean; but they rose again to the surface and flowered in Gothic architecture.

Individuals and communities have not uncommonly followed a lead because they were pressed from behind by *circumstances*. The migrations which have influenced human history so profoundly have often been urged by scarcity of land or pasturage; customs and laws have perforce been adapted to the complications that arise from a growing population or material progress. It was an argument for the abolition of slavery that slave labour was ceasing to be profitable. In these cases reason has played a part in the advance of reform. But, generally, its authority has been less compelling than it would please us to believe. Even at the present day its vision is clouded by the prejudice of habit. We may, indeed, be excused if we distrust our reasoning faculties. On the most burning political questions of the day we see men of acute intellect divided in opinion and arrayed, one side against the other, in opposing camps. It is not, then, strange that we should be content with the guidance that we receive from our feelings and habits. We are astonished that, in the East, improvements in economics or in manners should spread so slowly. But our own expenditure is regulated very largely by the

dictates of custom. It can hardly
be said that
patent medicines generally deserve
their wide
popularity. Political economy, in so
far as it
assumes that conduct is determined
by calcula-
tion, may justly be termed a visionary
science.
The articles which we purchase, and
the shops
at which we purchase them, are
settled for us, in
great part, by habit and imitation.